doctors join duties in rural areas as and when posted. The Government of Assam is also contemplating to introduce incentive and punitive measures to ensure availability of doctors in rural areas.

ICMR meetings with soft drink manufacturers

3104. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the ICMR has finalized the standards for sugar content in soft drinks in the country;

(b) whether it is a fact the ICMR had a number of meetings with representatives of multinational soft drink companies;

(c) if so, the details of such meetings;

(d) whether ICMR has refused to invite NGOs agitating against the obesity generating soft drinks; and

(e) the steps proposed to have ICMR conduct proper studies and take a fair stance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) ICMR has undertaken a study to detect level of pesticide residues, if any, in sugar samples.

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research has not organised any meetings with representatives of multinational soft drinks companies so far.

(d) No, this is not correct.

(e) Studies conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research would be based on scientific methodology and would be subject on appropriate peer review.

BIS certification to milk products

3105. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have issued a draft notification to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that Government are considering to exempt milk products from mandatory BIS certification; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (d) A draft notification to amend the Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 has been published in Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i) of the Gazette of India. Extraordinary on 9th May, 2006 under G.S.R. 278(E) for inviting public comments.

By this draft notification the following amendments are proposed—

1. Revision of the standard of cream to harmonize with the Codex Standards.

2. Exemption of condensed milk sweetened, condensed skimmed milk sweetened, milk powder, skimmed milk powder, partly skimmed milk powder and partly skimmed sweetened condensed milk from the Mandatory BIS Certification under PFA Rules 1955.

Improving facilities at the burns ward of Safdarjung Hospital

3106. SHRI MOTIUR RAHMAN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether during the last ten years three Committees have been formed for improving the conditions of burns ward, Safdarjung Hospital

(b) if so, the details thereof together with the recommendations made by these Committees;

(c) what are the reasons for not pursuing the recommendations of the Committees;

(d) whether there is any shortage of medical facilities and machines etc. in burns ward, Safdarjung Hospital and if so, the details thereof and the arrangements made to overcome the same; and

(e) whether proper cleanliness is not maintained in burns ward endangering the life of patients?